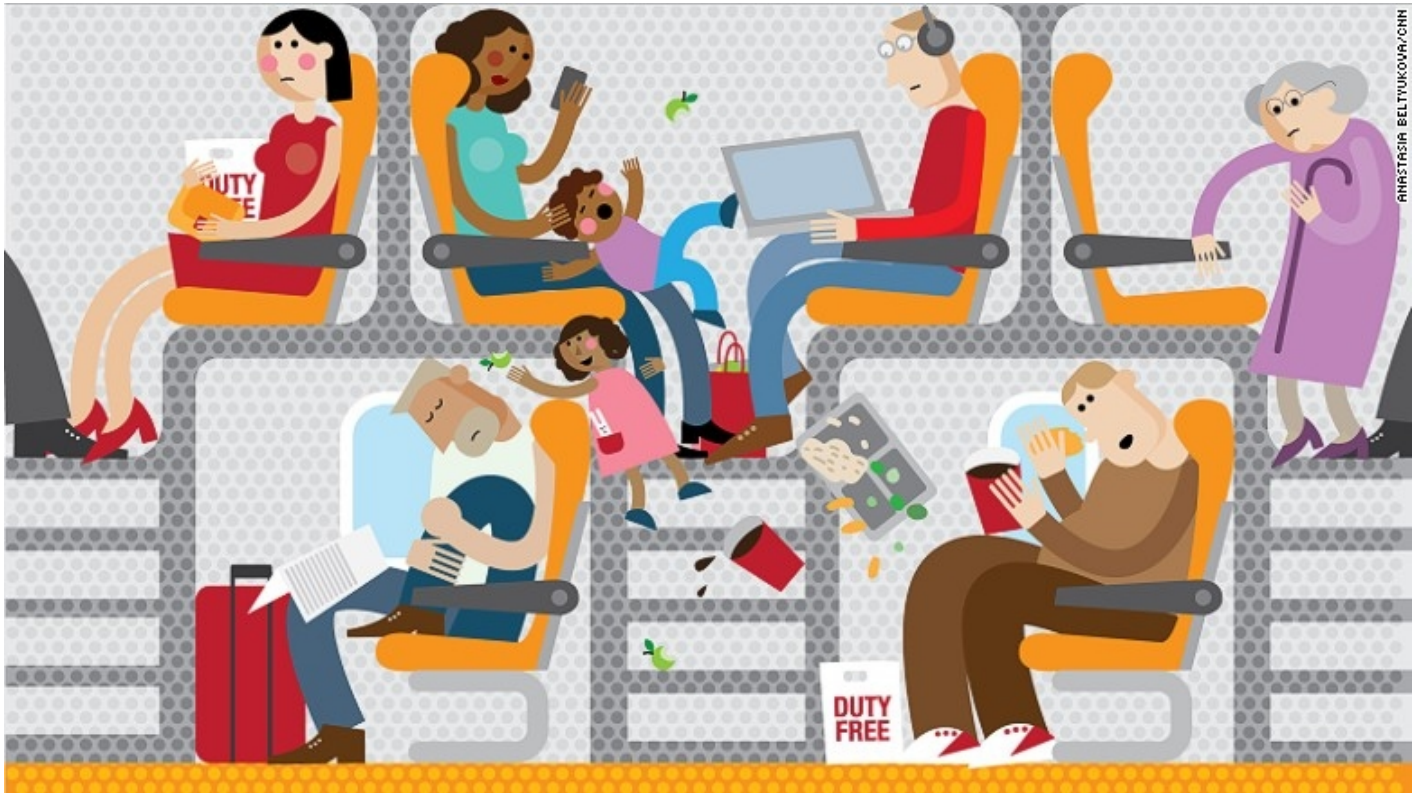


News / Airlines, Events / Festivals



Cohen wants the FAA to study seat safety regarding size and then, if necessary, issue minimum or

specific seat sizes as a mandated federal industry standard.

Before the vote, other committee members said the existing bill already included provisions to evaluate airline evacuations. But Cohen said in general, airline seats are "hard to get out of" and "they keep getting smaller and smaller."

"We're down to four major carriers and they do what they want," Cohen said, referring to recent mergers of the nation's large airlines.

In response, Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Illinois, told Cohen, "I think we got to the root of the issue as a whole. It's your issue with the airline industry."

The powerful Washington airline lobbying group Airlines for America opposes the idea. In a statement on Wednesday, the group said, "... the government should not regulate, but instead market forces, which reflect consumer decisions, and competition should determine what is offered. ... And as with any commercial product or service, customers vote every day with their wallet."

Cohen said he isn't planning to give up his crusade. He's promising to try to add it to the bill again when it comes to the floor of the House.

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SOURCE: CNN

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